



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

VEGI Geography

The figures from the most recent VEGI [annual report](#) for the distribution of projected jobs by county show that Chittenden and Washington Counties are expected to generate three quarters (75%) of the new jobs supposedly created by the program. This illustrates VEGI’s failure as a useful tool in the effort to address the urban – rural disparity in Vermont’s economy. Money is going where growth is already happening.

For example, the latest figures show that there are no active or completed applications in at least three of Vermont’s 14 counties, including Addison, Bennington, and Rutland. It is unclear why VEPC twice combined three different counties in the report (see below), but a map and table on page 5 of the [2022 report](#) shows no activity in two of the counties joined with others in the Table (Essex and Grand Isle). If accurate, this means that **five of 14 counties have not benefitted from this program in almost 20 years.**

Projected Activity Summary		
All Active & Complete Applications Through Dec. 2021 Total Projected Economic Activity, 2007 – 2026		
County	Projected New Jobs	Change in Private Sector Jobs, 2007 - 2022
Chittenden	1,649	4,523
Washington	799	32
Franklin / Grand Isle / Lamoille	311	1,713
Windham	226	-2,837
Caledonia / Essex / Orleans	132	-1,095
Windsor	89	-887
Orange	53	-271
Addison	0	565
Bennington	0	-2,215
Rutland	0	-3,556
Totals	3,259	-1,880

VEGI awards have been concentrated in the fastest growing parts of the state. This reinforces concerns about the veracity of the “but for.”